# A SHORT Catechiſme:

OR

A Cordiall Preſeruatiue for *little Children, againſt the* infection of Popery, and *Atheiſme, to be taught* by Parents, in priuate Families.

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*By Robert Linaker.*

Pſal. 34. 11.

*Come children, hearken vnto mee, I will teach you the feare of the Lord.*

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# ¶ To the Christian *Reader.*

Had no purpose to publish these short instructiõs, wherewith I indeuoured to season some younglings, being neare & deare vnto mee: but when others desired them for their childrẽ, being also aduised that manie might receiue good thereby, I was more willing to commit them to the presse, after an auncient approoued workeman had examined them, and added some verie necessarie points therevnto. Assuredlie these are the last times, wherein Sathan bestirreth him, by all his

hellish vassalls and drudges, to vndermine the very foūdation of Christian religion, & to poyson the whole world with poperie & Atheisme, Ignorance, prophanenesse, and all impietie hath set foot in this Kingdom, and as a leprosie infecteth all degrees, from the hoare head, to the tender babes, but newely weaned from the mothers brests. So as it is more then hie time for the Lords watchmen, to crie aloude to all religious parents, to be more carefull to season their little children, with sauourie and saving instructions, to preserue them from the inflät pernicious contagion. *Salomons* charge to euery wise hearted father, is, *To teach a child in the traade of his way, and when he is olde, he shall not depart from it.* Experience teacheth, that the vessell will long taste of the first licour. Papists are marueilous zealous to nouzell vp their young frye in the false grounds of their bloudy superstition. Their blinde deuotion may make Christian professors to blush for their former sloth, and to rowze them to better care, for after

times,

times. But some will say, I might spare this labour, there be too manie Catechismes alreadie; I answer, no: except any be tainted with some smack of popery or corrupt doctrine, or being of good vse, are not imbraced & taught with due regard. For my heart bleeds within mee, to see how religion, with the exercises thereof, wanzeth, dieth, and is generally disgraced & scorned. But if the flood-gates of sinne might be ramperd vp, and countenãce giuen to a current course of religious exercises. If fathers of families would hold themselues bound to teach their children as *Abraham* did; would they be resolute for themselues & their households, to serue the Lord with *Ioshua*; to walke vprightly, in the middest of their houses, like *Dauid*; and to feare God, as *Cornelius*, and all his houshold. If Christian matrones had that godlie minde to bring vp their children, as *Timotheus* mother and grand-mother trained him vp from his child-hood, in the knowledge of the holie Scriptures, then there would be found too

fewe of them which be ſound & good. I bind no man to any one, but as there be manie, differing only in forme, but agreeing in ſubſtance, being drawne from the pure fountain of Gods word: ſo let euerie one chooſe that hee conceiueth to tende moſt to edification. For I ſay as the Apoſtle doth of preaching, ſo that chriſtian families may be ſoundly Catechized with this, or anie other, I doe and will reioyce from the bottome of my heart. For by this meanes religion ſhall flouriſh, godlines ſhall increaſe, ignorance ſhall be abandoned, ſinne ſhall be diſcountenanced, and God ſhall be daily glorified in this *Brittaine* kingdome, euen to the comming and Kingdome, of our Lord Ieſus.

# A SHORT
## Catechiſme.

Q. WHerin ſtands your chiefe happines?

A. **In the true knowledge of God, and of my ſelfe.**

Q. Why doe you ioyne theſe two together?

A. **Becauſe the one cannot ſtand without the other.**

Q. Why ſo?

A. **For that none can conceiue aright of Gods Maieſtie, except he know his owne miſerie, and ſo on the contrarie.**

Q. Where are theſe points taught?

A. **They are taught moſt effectually in the word of God.**

Q. What is God?

A. **God is an eternall ſpirit, vn-**

changeable, and infinite.

Q. What elſe?

A. Moſt holie, wiſe, mightie, Juſt and merrifull.

Q. How many Gods be there?

A. There is but one onely true God.

Q. How many perſons?

A. Three.

Q. What is a perſon?

A. One and the ſelfeſame God, diſtinguiſhed by a peculiar properties.

Q. As how?

A. The father to beget, the ſonne to be begotten, and the holy Ghoſt to proceed.

Q. Who made you?

A. God the father.

Q. How did he make you?

A. Holy and happie like himſelfe.

Q. Wherefore did God make you?

A. To ſerue and glorifie him.

Q. Who redeemed you when you became ſinfull, and curſed?

A. God the ſonne.

Q. Who is that?

A. Jeſus Chriſt.

Q. What

Q. What is he?

A. **He is both God and man.**

Q. What else?

A. **He is my onely Sauiour, and Redœmer.**

Q. From what hath he saued you?

A. **From sinne.**

Q. What is sinne?

A. **Sinne is the breaking of Gods commandements.**

Q. How many commaundements be there?

A. **There be Tenne.**

Q. Which be they?

A. **Thou shalt haue none other Gods before me, &c.**

Q. Can you keepe all Gods commandements?

A. **No: I breake them daylie, in thought, word, and deed.**

Q. What are you therefore?

A. **A most grœuous sinner.**

Q. What is the punishment due for sinne?

A. **Eternall torments of soule and body, in hell fire.**

Q. Haue you deserued this punishment?

ment?

A. Yes verily, because I haue sinned.

Q. How trust you then to be saued?

A. Onely by faith in Iesus Christ.

Q. What is faith?

A. A full beliefe of my heart by Christ alone, to obtaine forgiuenes of all my sinnes.

Q. What else?

A. To be saued from hell fire, and to liue most happie for euer in heauen.

Q. Who workes this faith in your heart?

A. God the holy Ghost.

Q. By what meanes?

A. By hearing Gods word preached.

Q. How doeth he strengthen your faith?

A. By the same word, and also by the vse of the Sacraments.

Q. What is a Sacrament?

A. A pledge of Christs loue, whereby I am assured of my saluation.

Q. How many Sacraments be there?

A. There

A. There be two.

Q. Which be they?

A. Baptisme & the Lords Supper.

Q. What doeth Baptisme teach you?

A. That all my sinnes are washed away in Christs blood.

Q. What doth the Lordes Supper teach you?

A. That Jesus Christ doeth fede my soule and body to eternall life.

Q. How else is your faith strengthened?

A. By faithfull and hartie praier.

Q. To whom must you pray?

A. Onely to God the father, in the name of Christ alone.

Q. What must you pray for?

A. All good blessings for bodie and soule, for this, and a better life.

Q. For whom must you pray?

A. For my selfe, and for all Gods children which are liuing in all the world.

Foure needfull questions, briefly containing the principall points of *Christian Religion.*

Q. WHat is the state and condition of all men by nature?

A. Most miserable and damnable, because euery man by nature is a most vile and cursed creature, an enemie to God, a bond-slaue of sinne and Sathan, and heire of eternall condemnation.

Q. How is he freed from this misery, & restored to eternall happines?

A. The onely meanes to free vs from this damnable estate, and to make vs truely happie and holy, is Iesus Christ alone, apprehended and applied onely by faith.

Q. How must they liue that are thus mercifully deliuered?

A. Whosoeuer doeth truely beleeue in Iesus Christ, must be a new creature, daily dying to sinne, and rising againe to righteousnes and holines.

Q. What

Q. What helpes must they vse which are deliuered?

A. Whosoeuer will continue a new creature, and increase in grace, must conscionably vse both the publike & priuate meanes which God hath appointed for that end.

Q. Rehearse the tenne Commandements?

A. I am the Lord thy God, &c.

1. Thou shalt haue none other Gods before me.

2. Thou shalt not make to thy selfe any grauen Image, nor the likenes of any thing, that is in heauen aboue, or in the earth beneath, or in the water vnder the earth: Thou shalt not bowe downe to them, nor worship them. For I the Lord thy God, am a iealous God, and visit the sinnes of the Fathers vpon the children, vnto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shew mercy vnto thousands in them that loue me, and keepe my commaundements.

3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vaine: for the

Lord

Lord will not hold him guiltles, that taketh his name in vaine.

4. Remember that thou kéepe holy the Sabbath day: Sixe daies thou shalt labour, and do all that thou hast to do: But the seuenth day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt doe no manner of worke, thou and thy sonne and thy Daughter, thy Man-seruant, and thy Maid-seruant, thy cattell, and the stranger that is within thy gates. For in sixe daies the Lord made heauen and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seuenth day. Wherefore the Lord blessed the seuenth day, and hallowed it.

5. Honour thy father and mother, that thy daies may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giueth thée.

6. Thou shalt do no murther.

7. Thou shalt not commit adulterie.

8. Thou shalt not steale.

9. Thou shalt not beare false witnesse against thy neighbour.

10. Thou shalt not couet thy neighbors

bors house, thou shalt not couet thy neighbors wife, nor his seruant, nor his maide, nor his ore, nor his asse, nor any thing that is his.

Q. Whose Commaundements are these?

A. They are Gods Commaundements, which I must learne to know and keepe most carefully to my liues ende.

Q. Rehearse the Articles of your belefe?

A. I Beleeue in God the Father Almightie, maker of Heauen and earth: And in Iesus Christ his onely Sonne our Lord, which was conceiued by the holy Ghost, borne of the Virgin Mary, suffered vnder Ponce Pilate: was crucified, dead and buried: he descended into hell: The third day he rose againe from the dead: He ascended into heauen, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almightie: From thence he shall come to iudge the quicke and the dead. I beleeue in the holy Ghost: The holy Catholike Church: The com-

communion of Saints: The forgiuenes of sinnes: The resurrection of the bodie: And the life euerlasting, Amen.

Q. What call you this, is it a Praier?

A. No: It is the summe and substance of my faith. Thus I beleeue to be saued, according to the doctrine of the holy scriptures.

Q. Rehearse the Lords Praier?

A. OUr Father which art in heauen, hallowed be thy name: Thy kingdome come: Thy will be done, in Earth, as it is in Heauen: Giue vs this day our dayly bread: And forgiue vs our trespasses, as we forgiue them that trespasse against vs: And leade vs not into temptation: But deliuer vs from euill, for thine is the kingdome, the power and the glory, for euer and euer Amen.

Q. Is not this a Praier?

A. Yea a most perfect praier, which the Lord Jesus hath taught me to vse, and thereby to frame all my praiers.

A Prayer

## A Prayer before meate.

OVr sinnes haue made vs vnworthy to behold, to touch or taste the least crumme of bread for our comfort, may it therefore please thee O Lord, to receiue vs into thy gracious fauour, and to blesse this good foode prepared for vs, that we receiuing strength thereby, may be fitted for euery christiã duetie, to thy glorie, and our saluation, through Iesus Christ our onely sauiour. Amen.

## A Thanksgiuing after meate.

WE desire grace most mercifull father, to returne all humble and hartie thanks vnto thee, for all thy mercies, and for the comfort we haue now receiued from thee, by meanes of this good foode: Pardon our vnthankfulnes, better our obedience, and fit vs for thy seruice and kingdome, to liue in glorie for euer, by Christ our onely Sauiour. Amen.

## Another before meate.

BEcause thou hearest the prayer, therefore we thy vnworthy seruants, are bold to call vpō thy holy name, and doe intreate thée, that with the frée pardon of our sinnes, and all sauing graces for eternall life, thou wilt vouchsafe to blesse this table which thou hast spred for our nourishment, that we being refreshed, may chéerfully proceed to serue thée in our seuerall callings, to thy glorie, and our lasting happines, in our Lord Iesus. Amen.

## Another after meate.

MOst mercifull father, we humbly pray thée, accept of such slender thankes as we poore sinners are able to render to thée, for the infinite mercies, graces and blessings, we receiue daily from thée, for this and a better life: Goe forward with thy louing kindnes, and leaue vs not, till thou hast

hast made vs happie with thine owne selfe in thy blessed kingdome, through thy sonne our all sufficient Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Another before meate.

ALl creatures are sanctified to the elect, onely in Christ, by the word of God and praier: by this warrant we are incouraged, O Lord to call vpon thee in heauen, to stretch out thy right hand of blessing vpon these good creatures, set apart for our present nourishment, that our hearts being sanctified in the sober vse thereof, we may be strengthened to walke vprightly before thee, to our last breath; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Another after meate.

HOly father, how great cause haue we to lift vp our hearts & hands to thee, with all vnfained thanksgiuing, that thou hast so kindely thought vpon vs at this time, to finde

out this good foode for our weake and sinfull bodies. O thinke vpon our poore soules, and feede them with the bread of life, which shall neuer perish, but indure to eternall life, by the mediation of Iesus Christ. Amen.

A Praier for the Church.

BLesse thy Church & chosen people in all the world, with these vnited kingdomes, preserue thine annointed our most gracious Soueraigne, his royall person and issue, prosper the cause of the Gospel, confound the malicious enemie, comfort the distressed, and continue our peace, by Iesus Christ. Amen.

Or thus.

BLesse thy Church, our deare dread Soueraigne, Councell and countrie, forgiue our sinnes, increase our faith, and graunt vs eternall peace in Iesus Christ. So be it.

A Prayer

## A Praier to be vsed before the reading of the holy Scriptures.

FOrasmuch as thy holy word, O Lord our God, is a lanterne to our fete, and a most bright shining light to guide vs in all our paths, we humbly pray thee, to prepare our hearts with due reuerence at this present time and allwaies hereafter, to attend vpon the cõscionable diligent reading, regarding, and laying vp of the same, in the closet and treasurie of our hearts. And whereas by woefull experience we finde and feele our selues to be blind and ignorant, dull and dead hearted, so as we cannot conceiue the least glimse of the hidden misteries compryzed in thy blessed word, we doe heartily intreate thee, to vouchsafe vs the gracious assistance of thy holy spirit, that the eyes of our vnderstanding being opened, we may in some comfortable measure, see into the wonderfull secrets of thy most perfit and vnspotted lawe, for our eternall good. Let vs

delight therein, more then in any worldly profit or pleasure, whatsoeuer. Reforme and renue vs thereby, according to thine own Image, build vs vp, and edifie vs, into the perfect building of thy Christ, in a continuall increase of all heauenly vertues. Graunt this O heauenly father, for Iesus Christs sake. Amen.

A thanke-giuing after any exercise of the word of God.

WE hartily thanke thee most mercifull Father, for all good blessings, which concerne this, or a better life, confessing our selues altogether vnworthy of any one of them, from the kingdome of heauen, to the least crumme of bread or droppe of water. More particularly, we desire from the ground of our hearts, to be thankfull for the most precious iewell of thy holy word, and for the vnspeakable comfort thou bringest to our consciences by the continuall hearing, reading, studie, exercise

exercise and practise thereof: We humbly pray thee, increase our zeale and loue thereunto more and more, that the power thereof, may so worke in our hearts, that we may daily prosper and thriue in all the waies of godlines, to thy glorie, and our euerlasting happines, in thy most glorious kingdome, by Jesus Christ our onely Sauiour. Amen.

## A Prayer for the morning.

MOst glorious, high, and mightie God, and our mercifull louing father in Jesus Christ, we most wretched sinners, thy vnworthy seruants, doe with all reuerence and humilitie of heart, cast downe our selues in our bodies and soules before thy glorious Footestoole, and thy Mercie-seate, desirous to tender vnto thee a morning sacrifice of praier & thankesgiuing. And first we acknowledge and confesse, that we are not worthy to approch into thy presence, to haue any thing to doe with thee in any part of

thy moſt pure worſhip and ſeruice, becauſe we are ſo ſinfull and prophane, being moſt worthy to be abandoned from thy preſence, and fauour, yea for euer to be ſhut out of thy kingdome. But we moſt humbly beſeech thee regard vs not in our ſelues, and ſinnes, as we deſerue to be regarded, but turne thine eyes vpon thine owne glorie, faſten them vpon thy deare ſonne Ieſus Chriſt, our onely and all ſufficient Sauiour, for his ſake be merciſull vnto vs, moſt vnworthy the leaſt droppe of mercy. Paſſe by and pardon all our ſinnes in generall, and in particular, originall and actuall, from the firſt to the laſt, and from the greateſt to the leaſt thought of heart, whereby we haue offended thee from the firſt moment of our conception and birth, to this preſent day and houre. Accept his death for a full ſatiſfaction and diſcharge of them all, burie them deepe in his graue, wipe out the remembrance of them with his blood, that they may neuer be charged vpon vs in this, or in the world to come, to

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condemnation, let thy blessed spirit seale vp the pardon to the comfort of our consciences, with assurance of thy fauour and eternall life, through his most perfit obedience and righteousnes. To this purpose, humble our soules, by sound, vnfeigned, and true repentance, that with godly sorrow, and deadly hatred, we may bewaile, detest, and abhorre, all our sinnes, especially those which we loue and like best, our most toothsome and best pleasing sinnes, whereby we haue most offended thee, into which we are more easily carried by the corruption of nature, and Sathans malice. Graunt with speed we may come out of the bondage and slauerie of Sathan of all sinne, and of our violent affections, passions & lusts, which fight against our soules. Strēgthen vs with grace to bid them battell, and neuer to giue them ouer, till we haue subdued them, and forced them all to yeeld obedience to thy holy commandements, graunt the ioy of our hearts may be to doe thy will in all things to our vtmost pow-

er,

er, and to walke in vprightnes before thee, to our liues end. Furnish vs therfore with needfull graces, especially as Christians, to walke worthy of Christ Jesus in a holy conuersation, graunt in our particular callings and places, we may be faithfull and vpright, comfortable to our owne soules, & gainefull to those with whom we liue, whether ouer or vnder vs, our superiors inferiours, or equalls: blesse all good meanes vnto vs which thou hast sanctified for our continuall growth in grace, & thy true feare: By name, sanctifie vnto vs thy holy word and ministerie, print and write in our harts, all holsome instructions, deliuered and taught vs, graunt we may delight to reade, heare, meditate, and practise thy holy word, to call vpon thy name, to giue thankes, to sanctifie thy Sabbaths, and conscionably to performe all parts of thy most pure worship. Make vs truely thankefull for all thy benefites, but chiefly for Christ Jesus the fountaine of all good to vs and ours, and for the comfort of

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thy ſpirit, ỹ miniſterie of thy woꝛd, thy Sabboths, Sacramẽts, & all thine oꝛdinances, foꝛ the peace of the kingdome, and all deliuerances, ſpecially from the gun-powder treaſon; moꝛe particularly foꝛ our life, and being, health and welfare, thy bleſſing vpon our ſtudies and labours, foꝛ the reſt and ſleepe, comfoꝛt and peace. Pꝛotection and ſafetie of the night paſt, foꝛ renewing our life and health, with the light of this pꝛeſent day. Renew thy fauour to vs in Chꝛiſt Jeſus, & foꝛ his ſake, leade vs foꝛth this and all the daies of our life, into the wayes of righteouſnes, truth and holines, that we may ſpend this day, and all our life in thy ſeruice, that in our callings we may be ſo conſcionably occupied, that thy bleſſing may be vpon euerie thing we ſhall vndertake in thy holy feare, kæpe vs from euill, graunt the woꝛds of our mouthes, the woꝛkes of our hands, & the thoughts of all our harts, and of all thy childꝛen, may be acceptable beforꝛe thée, this day and foꝛ euer. Bleſſe thy Church and childꝛen, in all

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the world, all kingdomes that professe thy Gospel, and that detest all superstition and popetie, by name, these united kingdomes. Giue free passage to thy Gospel, that the land may abound with peace and plentie. Preserue our Soueraigne King, his Royall person, issue and gouernment, from treacherie and flatterie, establish his throne and kingdome, that he may establish religion, iudgement, and righteousnes, to the comming and kingdome of our Lord Iesus. Be fauourable to the Lords of the counsel, true harted nobilitie and magistracie, all Iudges and Iustices in their seuerall places of gouernment, that they may minister true iudgement to the people, without partialitie and respect of persons. Blesse the holy ministerie, for the gathering together of thine elect, in all parts of this kingdome, giue happie successe to the studies and labours of thy faithfull seruants, with much comfort to themselues, and a gracious blessing to the soules of so many as thou hast appointed to eternall life.

Shew

Shew mercy to all Christiã families, which call vpon thy name in vprightnes of heart, kepe them and theirs as our selues, and ours, from euill, and guide all our hearts in the obedience of all thy commandements to our liues end, and lasting saluation. Comfort the afflicted that suffer for thy Gospell, which mourne for sinne, or be vnder any violent temptation, such as be weake, or vnder any wãt, in any distresse or extremitie, ordinarie or extraordinarie, measure out a rich portion of grace for their ease and happie deliuerance, in the meane time mercifully support them with patience and thankefulnes. Shew the light of thy countenance, to all our kinsfolke in the flesh, all our Christian acquaintance which liue or remaine in any place. All thy seruants which haue craued our praiers, which stand in nede of them, to whom we haue promised them, or by dutie are to performe them, heare vs for them and our selues, calling vpon thee in the name of Iesus Christ, for all graces & blessings,

ſings, needful for this and a better life, in that forme of prayer, which himſelf hath taught vs, ſaying: Our Father, &c.

## A Prayer for the Euening.

O Father of mercies, and in Jeſus Chriſt our moſt mercifull father, wee thy vnprofitable ſeruants and children, deſire againe this euening to be humbled vnder thy mightie hand, for the ſinnes of all our life paſt, and by name, for thoſe which this day haue bene committed by vs, in the words of our mouthes, the workes of our hands, and thoughts of our hearts, to prouoke thee to anger. Let it pleaſe thee to ſet them in order before vs, that wee may acknowledge them w̄ ſhame and ſorrowe of heart. According to thine abundant wonted mercies, forgiue and forget them for Jeſus Chriſt his ſake. Increaſe in vs, with mighty increaſes, the ſtregth of a liuely, ſound, ſauing, ſanctifying faith. Purge our vncleane hearts more and more from all our vanities and corruptions, and chiefly